

TRAILS SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING
HOPKINTON, NH
MEETING MINUTES – Approved 5-7-19

April 9, 2019, 7:00 pm; Hopkinton Town Hall

Members present: Lucia Kittredge, Chair; Cleve Kapala, Ron Klemarczyk, Rob Knight, Pierre Vanden Borre.
Also attending: Bonnie Christie

Meeting minutes from February 21, 2019 accepted. **Next meeting: Tuesday, May 7, 2019, 7 pm; Location: Planning Office at Town Hall**

Ransmeier Parking Lot: Ron explained the proposal by the Department of Public Works to improve parking at the Police Station by combining it with the Ransmeier parking area. The combined lot would create a safer entrance to the police station and additional year-round parking for hikers. The Ransmeier lot currently has five parking spaces but, because they are not suitable for winter plowing, hikers have been using the police lot in winter. This has occasionally created a shortage of parking for police department visitors. Funds for parking lot improvements were approved at Town Meeting. Ron is working with staff at Five Rivers Conservation Trust, holders of the conservation easement, to develop a plan that meets the terms of the easement while also improving safety and public access for visitors. If an agreement is not reached, the police department will no longer allow hikers to park in winter.

Trail Policies and Guidelines: Lucia reviewed comments from Neal Cass who reviewed the proposed trail policies. The committee discussed revisions to clarify the prohibition of motorized trail bikes and off highway recreational vehicles on town-maintained trails. Lucia will send the revised policies to Lee Wilder for discussion at the Conservation Commission meeting on April 16th. Once approved by the HCC, Lucia will work with Kathy Barnes to post the policies on the website. The Policies will also be posted at trail kiosks.

Trail Signage: Committee members discussed locations for additional signs, arrows, and posts at trail access points, per suggestions from trail reconnaissance. Cleve will get a price for ordering 4x4x12 posts and ask for approval of funds at the next HCC meeting. Members agreed to keep signage to a minimum, following the design and font style already established with Greenway signs (yellow), Town Conservation Land (red), private landowner signs (green), and identifying signs (white with black letters/border). We will focus on improving signage and adding arrows at Ransmeier Woods, Blackwater Loop and Contoocook Overlook trails, Hawthorne Forest and the Greenway connector.

Trail maintenance: Cleve contacted trail crew volunteers for spring clean-up and had a good response. A few blow-downs have been reported. Cleve will be reaching out to volunteers to get trails ready in the next month.

The Courser Hill loop trail needs work due to the Bohanan's timber sale. Ron will talk to Jamie Robertson about creating a parking area at the log landing on Dustin Road to improve access. Meanwhile, we will post the trail as closed temporarily due to logging activity. Rob will inform Five Rivers.

Spring trail event: to be held on National Trails Day, June 1, 2019 (first Saturday in June). Committee decided to hold event at Hawthorne Forest instead of Ransmeier Woods due to parking concerns. Ron will interpret the property's land use history. Publicity will include posting on Facebook page (Pierre), email through Susan Covert, and posting in the Concord Monitor's Town Crier. Lucia will contact Paula Simpkins for publicity through the Recreation Department. Further details to be discussed at the May meeting.

New trail planning:

Rollins Trail; Ron has met with Patrick Quinn who will organize Boy Scouts to cut the trail during April vacation as part of his Eagle Scout project. Ron has flagged a trail loop. He will supervise the scouts and run the chainsaw ahead of them. He is preparing a wetland permit for the boardwalk and bridge which will be built by Ron and HCC volunteers. Water levels in the drainage way are higher than expected this spring due to increased development and tree cutting on Gould Hill. Ron will ask the HCC for additional funding to raise the level of the proposed bridge. There is room for several cars to park near the log landing area on Little Tooky Road. From there, walkers

can continue through the cemetery to Contoocook Village. A longer-term project is to work with the cemetery trustees on trail signage. Signage and blazing for the Rollins Trail is part of Patrick Quinn's project.

Ransmeier Woods: A short cutoff trail was discussed to take hikers from the Ransmeier field NW corner to the HVG, thus expanding the use of the parking as a possible more direct HVG trailhead.

Future projects:

Contoocook Greenway: planning on-going.

Beyer Lot: committee discussed creating a loop trail at Beyer where there is an existing parking lot.

Aqueduct Lot parking area: near the top of Old Putney Road to access the Greenway connector and Putney-Cross Trail.

Facebook Page: Pierre put out an advisory about using trails during mud season. The page is proving to be an excellent way to communicate with trail users.

Other Business: Ron mentioned that another box culvert will be installed on Dolff Brook (Briar Hill Road) this summer. The design includes a pedestrian lane marked with a painted white line for Greenway walkers.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50.

Respectfully submitted,
Lucia Kittredge, Chair